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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Jiro TOYODA

Serial No.: 09/926,118

Filed: August 31, 2001

For: WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD



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TC 1700

Group Art Unit: 1754

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

SUPPLEMENTAL
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

January 18, 2002

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. One copy of each of these documents is attached.

No fee or certification is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement, since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following the filing date or the entry of the national stage of the above-captioned application.

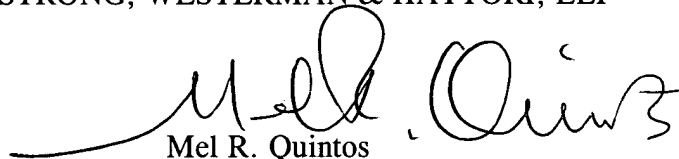
The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 CFR 1.104(a) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that

the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mel R. Quintos', is written over the printed name.

Mel R. Quintos
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 31,898

Atty. Docket No. 011089

1725 K Street, N.W., Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: (202) 659-2930
Fax: (202) 887-0357

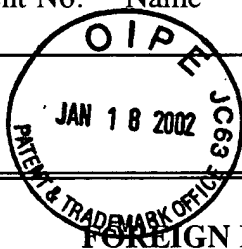
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Enclosures: PTO-1449;
11 references; and
Notification of Reasons for Refusal from the Japanese Patent Office
dispatched on November 13, 2001 (2 pages)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION PTO-1449	Atty. Docket No. 011089	Serial No. 09/926,102
	Applicants: Jiro TOYODA	
	Filing Date: August 31, 2001	Group Art Unit: 1754

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial	Document No.	Name	Date	Class	Subclass	Filing Date (If appropriate)
_____	AA					
_____	AB					



FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document No.	Date	Country	Translation (Yes or No)
_____	AC	7-313951	12/05/95	Japan	Abstract
_____	AD	10-202298	08/04/98	Japan	Abstract
_____	AE	6-99160	04/12/94	Japan	Abstract
_____	AF	8-2910	01/09/96	Japan	Abstract
_____	AG	11-128870	05/18/99	Japan	Abstract
_____	AH	11-209768	08/03/99	Japan	Abstract
_____	AI	9-323076	12/16/97	Japan	Abstract
_____	AJ	9-323077	12/16/97	Japan	Abstract
_____	AK	11-223476	08/17/99	Japan	Abstract
_____	AL	63-93391	04/23/88	Japan	Abstract
_____	AM	7-185502	07/25/95	Japan	Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENTS

_____	AN	Notification of Reasons for Refusal from the Japanese Patent Office dispatched on November 13, 2001 (2 pages).
Examiner	Date Considered	

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[The reasons for the subject invention to be granted]

With regard to the Japanese patent application which corresponds to the U.S.A. patent application (U.S. Patent Appln. S.N. 09/926,102), we have received the Notification of Reason(s) for Refusal from the Japanese Patent Office. We attach herewith the copies of the documents mentioned in the notification and their English abstracts.

1. The documents cited in the Notification of Reason(s) for Refusal by Japanese Patent Office.

- (1) JP, 07-313951, A
- (2) JP, 10-202298, A
- (3) JP, 06-099160, A
- (4) JP, 08-002910, A
- (5) Patent application No., JP, 09-292641 (JP, 11-128870, A)

2. The documents cited as prior art documents, which are not components of the reason(s) for refusal, by Japanese Patent Office in the Notification of Reason(s) for Refusal.

- (6) JP, 11-209768, A
- (7) JP, 09-323076, A
- (8) JP, 09-323077, A
- (9) JP, 11-223476, A
- (10) JP, 63-093391, A
- (11) JP, 07-185502, A

The gist of the present invention is that

- 1) wastes mainly containing any one or two or more of raw garbage, used tires, waste lumber, paper diapers, waste plastics,
- 2) organic wastes containing much water,
- 3) wastes mainly containing any one or two or more of organic sludge and human or animal excrement

are exposed to high-temperature steam in an oxygen-free state to evaporate water and further to be carbonized, and the wastes having been carbonized are taken out into the air after decreasing the temperature thereof by being exposed to low-temperature steam (100-120 °C) so that the carbonized wastes do not start burning.

Thereby, the subject invention has the merits such as that the objects being carbonized, a) do not start burning in the air, b) can be obtained as carbon material in a dried state without getting wet by water, and c) it is easy to control the time to expose to the low-temperature steam.

On the other hand, the cited documents (1)-(5) and the prior art documents (6)-(11) disclose the waste disposal methods in which one (or more) of said wastes is made to be of high temperature in an oxygen-free state to be carbonized. However, there is no description that after being carbonized by using high-temperature steam, the wastes are cooled by using low-temperature steam (such as 100-120°C), which is a characteristic of the present invention.

Because of the above-described reason, we are convinced that the present application has enough patentability as shown in the PCT International Search Report.

(5) Patent application No., JP, 09-292641 (JP, 11-128870, A) was published after the priority date of the present patent application and before the international filing date of the present patent application. Therefore, the document (5) is not perceived as a prior art document substantially, however, we submit it at any rate.

Publication Date of the document (5): May 18, 1999

Priority Date: March 3, 1999

International Filing Date: February 28, 2000